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A TALK WITH JOHN FETZER

On August 29, 1986 three Foundation employees had a rare opportunity to talk in depth with the creator of the Fetzer Foundation. They spent an afternoon learning about the philosophy behind the Foundation, what led to its creation, and the personal beliefs held by John Fetzer that have so strongly influenced its direction. Because we feel this message is important to our colleagues, friends, and those in the general public who care about wellness, we decided to feature transcribed excerpts in this annual report.

Q: How did you first become interested in energy medicine?

A: I think the most significant early influence was a mining engineer by the name of Baird Spaulding. He wrote about his experiences with the great Himalayan Masters in a research party around the turn of the century. While he was there he discovered, in ancient records and manuscripts, many materials that are electronic in concept. At least, as a former electrical engineer, I drew that conclusion from his writing.

So I started thinking, "What is really going on? What kind of world is this?" As a very young man I started seeing the link between engineering and spiritual philosophies, and I started to search through everything I could find on the subject. As I studied further I was led step by step into investigating the paranormal. Now, at that time I was writing my family history and I was doing quite a bit of traveling abroad. When I went to Germany or Switzerland or France, I was always trying to find someone who was working in these fields. And every once in a while I 'd meet a professional who would kindle my interest. This led me to Duke University and a meeting with Dr. J.B. Rhine, a prominent parapsychologist who had been working for many, many years. He was a real pioneer in that field.

Later on I met a group of people in New York. Among them were Judy Skutch-Whitson who published the Course In Miracles material, and later Brendan O' Regan, now with the Institute of Noetic Sciences, and Gerry Jampolsky, founder of the Center For Attitudinal Healing. So, the sources began to multiply.

Q: How does this relate to your early career?

A: Well, as a young electrical engineer on the campus of Purdue, I was dealing with all kinds of electrical energies and trying to put together some of the first processes of broadcasting. When we were developing things right after World War I, Nicola Tesla was our bible. He had been writing quite a bit about his experimentation and seemed to be one of only a few scientific sources available to us. So, we had no guidelines and we were trying to develop a wireless telephone. We were coming out of the crystal receiver stage when the first vacuum tube became available after World War I--the Signal Corps brought it to the campus. In developing the wireless telephone we had no designs or circuits. One day, when we were experimenting, I just happened to stumble on the idea of putting a microphone into the plate circuit of a vacuum tube, which resulted in wireless transmission by voice. Others had done it before me, but this is the way it all got started. It was. a pioneering effort in an elusive field.

As I experimented and studied more of Tesla's work, I recognized that there are energy wave forms in the physical world. And I began to wonder if there were other, more subtle wave forms that we can't see with our eyes.

Q: How do you now see the links between Tesla's physical work and its implications about paranormal energies?

A: I think it suggests a whole new line of thinking in energy radiation. The physics we have available to us today can define the spectrum; it defines all those frequencies very well. The challenge comes when we look at energies beyond the spectrum. Let's say you want to explore body radiation--sometimes called the aura. Now that is really a wave form, an energy operating in a part of the spectrum yet to be discovered. As far as I know, nobody has defined it yet. But that's part of our challenge--to take it into the laboratory, as Tesla did.

Can you see how difficult it is to define these sub-levels of energy? We don't even have the vocabulary yet to name what remains to be discovered. But I have confidence this will emerge. I've spent hours going through the sources that are available today, and much of it is very highly controversial. I agree with some of it and I disagree with the rest. But that kind of controversy is what makes change begin.

Q: What does all of this have to do with merging science and religion and spirituality?

A: I think one of the ultimate goals of the Foundation is just exactly that--the merging of science with what I prefer to call infinite energy. We're trying right now to find other words that will include this concept.

Q: There's an implication, through comments you've made over time, that humanity must change its attitudes and actions. How are science and spiritual energy involved in this? What do we have to do in the future to create positive change?

A: I feel that we're on the threshold of a new order where people by the thousands will seek enlightened change. They're going to search down one path after another, and everybody will have to find their own. People won't fit nicely into certain categories--we'll each have to find our own way. But when that is found, it will allow us to go deeply inside ourselves and find Soul. That's where the oneness comes in. We are all one.

Now, if people are going to look at the right place to find Soul within, first of all they're going to have to be physically healthy. And that's where the things we advocate add another dimension to the importance of healing. We each need to begin to assume personal responsibility for our own health because it's important to our total well-being. We need to learn how to look inside ourselves and find out what tools are there, built in. And we have to put together an equation that will bring sense and health to our lives. Because if we believe in our own minds we can't be healed, then there is no hope for us physically.

Since people are starting to look for something they can't quite define, the Foundation seems to excite a lot of them. Well, the truth is, we have no answers! We're in the search

just like they are, except we're a little bit ahead with it. But, it's really the same quest.

One way to make a start with all this is to search for a formula--to bring about a balance among the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual aspects of ourselves. Now those four precepts can be symbolized by the basics of earth, fire, water, and air. And when you look at them carefully, those are the four basics of science. They are what carry you to the laboratory and modern technology. Many investigators today are reviewing those four forces as energy sources, technically referred to as the electromagnetic, gravitational, strong, and weak forces. These force fields are currently believed to be a form of light energy, and they lead straight to the fundamental source of all creation.

For example, it's like this paperweight. The earth, fire, water, and air--it shows four different aspects. They go out, they go around a circle, and come right back to the starting point. They go out again, around the circle, and back to the starting point. Around and around-- they all come back. And what do you find at the top? You find the oneness where unification is totally centered at the core. (NOTE TO US: An illustration of the paperweight he's referring to will be in the annual report.)

So, when we talk about the balance in the Foundation of all these four elements, we're really searching for that oneness. We're searching for a way of using technology until we grow to the point where we find we don't need it anymore. Then we'll finally have discovered ourselves.

Now that is a broad overview of the starting point for the Foundation. But the fundamental key is this: to search for the proper line of scientific investigation. Actually, what we're doing is only collecting experimental evidence. We're starting out to do something here, and if it doesn't make sense, we'll discard it. We don't know the answers. We're learning through trial and error, just like we did at Purdue. We can't look five years down the road and say, "This is what we're going to be doing." I don't know exactly where we're going, and I'm not afraid to say I don't know. I'm not afraid to be wrong or to change my mind. But it's my sincere hope that there are people in the scientific community who are aware of possible approaches to questions that I, as a layman, have no answers for.

Q: Aren't you really talking about redefining the scientific process as we have come to learn it?

A: Not only redefining it, but actually experimenting with the process itself. From studies in advanced physics we know that the experimenter becomes part of the energy circuit with what is being studied. And we know that the energy in equipment at this level is very subtle. We are also aware of the mind/body connection in us as human beings. Now evidence seems to indicate that if the experimenter has a positive or negative attitude toward the experiment, results will be positive or negative accordingly. So how do we remain absolutely neutral when we start to examine these very subtle wave forms? Is it even possible? And what happens to the traditional concepts of scientific "proof"? As you can see, this work generates all sorts of fundamental questions before you ever get started!

Q: The intriguing thing to me about all this is that you've actually created an organization where the organization itself and the building it's going into are a model for the very things you're trying to explore. You're asking us to join you in putting ourselves on the line. This isn't just words you're talking about. It's daily living reality.

A: That's right. We're trying to bring together people in various fields who have inquisitive minds--who are trying to experience on the inside what we are attempting to bring to the outside world.

Q: That, to me, is the real excitement and courage behind the Foundation and what you've done. You're willing to model it, not just talk about it.

A: That is my hope, of course. And over time it will become more apparent to people who want to think in those terms.

Actually, what I've done is very risky. I don't know of many successful operators of a large business enterprise who, during their lifetime, liquidated their assets and walked out on a very successful environment saying, "I'm going out to seek something different." But what I've done is to invest in an enormous hope chest with the faith that the ultimate goal will be attained. That defies conventionality, and it's a matter of developing a new

value structure. But I'm trusting that time will give us the answers and that my intuition will prove to be correct.

Of course, one of the big challenges is our employees and colleagues. How do you take all these people who are on various paths and at various stages of life, and pull them together with a common goal and a common spiritual understanding? And do it in such a way that we aren't offensive to their own personal belief system? We can't neatly put everybody into a little box and say, "This is the way everybody has to go," That would be just fundamentally wrong, so we don't even think of our mission in those terms. But you can see, when you begin to think of the large picture, how difficult it is to define our program.

Q: One thing that I've been asked many times is how your career in broadcasting relates to the Foundation. In the public eye they seem to be very different.

A: I think that's because most of the public is not aware of the technology behind broadcasting. Generally, the concept people have of broadcasting is its program structure--the sports or comedies. And it's so commonplace now. We take it for granted that the tube is there and that it always works. Kids feel that it's been there forever.

So, how do you get from broadcasting to the Fetzer Foundation goals? Well, the Foundation is the last of my pioneering efforts. Engineering, radio, television, government, baseball, and now energy medicine. Each has brought an experience that moved me toward developing the Foundation. But the answer to your question can be found in the basic energies behind the technology of broadcasting. You won't find it in the program source.

Q: You've recognized the importance of energies in radio and television and energies in humanity—body, mind, spirit, emotions. What do you see already going on in the world about all this?

A: Well, for example, here's a catalog outlining the use of experimental energy devices. It's a rather concise inventory of electronic equipment showing what individual experimenters are doing all over the world. And all of it

is dealing with energy. Atomic structures, quantum physics, light, the sun and planets--page after page of it. There is so much work being done in little laboratories, garages, basements, and attics. The world is oozing with it! The challenge is to separate the chaff from the wheat.

And what does spirituality have to do with each of these things? I visualize this electronic approach as the dynamics of Soul. Spiritual energy and physics are at work in tandem, and it's all around us everywhere--book reviews, articles on medicine, and so on and on...

Q: As you know, part of your dream is now reality. Practically every scientific magazine we pick up today talks in some way about "the body electric." What is your response to this and where do you see the Foundation going with it?

A: Well, to me, "the body electric" is a phrase concisely identifying what I have been trying to say. There's an opportunity to develop a whole new approach to physical health when we understand that our body is electrical as well as chemical. Up to this time, the emphasis in medicine has dealt to a large extent in the chemical aspects. Electrical studies of physiology were actually at a crossroads around the turn of the century and could have become a very important part of medicine. But the choice was made to focus on the chemical side of things. Now it's a case of playing catch-up, and there is a high order of probability that an additional arm of medicine will be developed to complement what we already know.

Q: If you could communicate just one idea to everyone in the world, what would it be?

A: During my life I've known many people who were successful primarily because they showed loving concern for others. They lived the qualities of love without ever talking about it. They acted in a loving manner and changed their little corner of the world by doing so. So to answer your question, I think that love is the core energy that rules everything. It is the force field out of the electronic energy of creation. Love is the one ingredient that holds us all together. The world's great scriptures express this by saying, "God is love."

Now here is a human body. It has parts and what we call life flowing through it. Yet, the one thing any body must have in order to live is a creative intelligence I call God--a certain energy that holds it all together and makes it work. Of course, there is no way you're going to look inside and define this. You can't do surgery and find creative intelligence! But the minute the God force leaves this body, it is worth less than 98 cents.

So I agree that God is love. And loving concern is the one ingredient that will make us successful—it's the glue to bind us together. And that is critical because this has to be a te.am effort. We must have dedicated people all over the world who are willing to search, to research, to contribute, and to become one through love. If love isn't there, our efforts will not work. I feel my most important mission right now is to carry love to this process—to nurture it and have some of it rub off on others. We simply must have love as an institution. That's what is going to make all this work.